



**BOROUGH OF RICHMOND**  
**YORKSHIRE**



**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

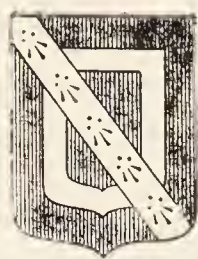
— OF —

**JOHN WILLIAMS, M.D.**

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**For the year ended  
31st December, 1939**





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YORKSHIRE

# ANNUAL REPORT

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RICHMOND :

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# BOROUGH OF RICHMOND

## YORKSHIRE.

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### *Report of Medical Officer of Health.*

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**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of the Borough of Richmond.**

Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

I have the honour to present to you my Report on the health of the Borough for the year ended 31st Dec., 1939. The Report will be an ordinary Report, and will deal more especially with the year under review, as set out in the Ministry of Health Circular, 1961.

The Report will be curtailed, and will, according to the circular be limited to a record of alterations, improvements or developments, which have taken place during the year.

The Government Evacuation Scheme and the Casualty Services in connection with Air Raid Precautions caused a great deal of additional work.

#### **Births.**

The total births during the year was 106. of which 51 were males and 55 females. The Birth Rate for the year was 19.15 per 1,000, that for the previous year was 19.06 per 1,000. The Birth Rate can be considered very satisfactory when compared with England and Wales.

The Birth Rate is calculated on a population of 5,534.

The excess of births over deaths, that is, the natural increase, was 38, which is lower than last year.

The natural increase per 1,000 population was 6.9.

The Birth Rate for England and Wales during 1939 was 15.0 per 1,000.

Six of the total births registered were illegitimate, 4 males and 2 females. There was 1 Still Birth registered,



### Deaths.

The total number of deaths during the year from all causes was 68, of which 40 were males and 28 females.

The death rate calculated on a population of 5,636 was 12.06 per 1,000, that for the previous year being 10.9 per 1,000. The death rate for England and Wales during 1939 from all causes was 12.1 per 1,000.

The corrected death rate after using the area comparability factor 1.03 was 12.42.

### Infantile Mortality.

The total number of infants dying under one year of age was 5, 4 males and 1 female. The Infantile Mortality, which is measured by the proportion of deaths under one year of age to every 1,000 births registered, was 46.7 per 1,000. There were no illegitimate deaths. The Infantile Mortality Rate for the previous year was 85.7 per 1,000. The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales was 50 per 1,000 during 1939.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was lower, and compares favourably with that of England and Wales. Improved motherhood through the efforts of the Maternity and Child Welfare Centre and the Ante-Natal Clinic, together with an improvement in housing conditions, should help in reducing the mortality further.

### Causes of Death of Children under 1 year.

CAUSE OF DEATH.	Under 1 Week	1-2 Weeks	2-3 Weeks	3-4 Weeks	4 Weeks and under 3 Months	3 Months and under 6 Months	6 Months and under 9 Months	9 Months and under 12 months	Total deaths under 1 year
Broncho- Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	1
Premature Birth	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Convulsions ...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	1
Pemphigus Neonatorum	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Total ...	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	5

It will be seen from the preceding table that 3 of the 5 infants died when they were under two weeks old. The home conditions in the cases were satisfactory, and all of them had a fully certified Midwife at birth.

In order to keep the rate down, and if possible, to further reduce it, mothercraft must continue to be taught, and home conditions improved wherever possible.

The alleviation of overcrowding is noticeable, owing to the increased number of new houses which have been erected. A further effort will be necessary in the erection of new houses of the three-bedroom type to further reduce overcrowding.

### Natural and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in Acres)	{ Land and Inland Water	2520
	{ Land	2481
Population (Census, 1931)	...	4769
Registrar General's estimate of Resident Population:—		
(a) For calculation of Birth Rate...		5534
(b) For calculation of Death Rate...		5636
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939)		
according to Rate Books	...	1304
Rateable Value, 31st March, 1940	...	£30,259
Rate in £ levied 1939-1940	...	11s. 10d.

Actual product of a Penny Rate, £120.82517 (calculated in accordance with the Product of Rates and Precept Rules, 1929). Rateable Value per head of population, £5 9s. 10d.).

### Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

LIVE BIRTHS :—		Total	Males	Females	Birth Rate 19.15 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.
Legitimate	...	100	47	53	
Illegitimate	...	6	4	2	
		—	—	—	
		106	51	55	
STILL BIRTHS :—					Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 9.3
Legitimate	...	1	1	Nil	
Illegitimate	...	Nil	Nil	Nil	
		—	—	—	
		1	1	Nil	
Deaths	...	68	40	28	Death rate 12.06 per 1,000 of the estimated resident population

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's Short List)—

	Deaths	Rates per 1,000 total (Live & Still) Births
No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis ...	Nil	Nil
No. 30—Other Puerperal Causes	Nil	Nil
	—	—
Total ...	Nil	Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births ...	46.7
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	50
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages) ...	6
„ „ Measles (all ages) ...	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil
„ „ Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	Nil

There were no deaths from Measles, Whooping Cough (all ages) or Diarrhœa (under two years of age). I am pleased to be able to report these facts again, there have been no deaths from these diseases for the last three years.

**Causes of Death during the Year 1939.**

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System...	1	
Other Respiratory Diseases ...	1	1
Cancer ...	3	3
Cerebral Hæmorrhage, etc. ...	2	2
Heart Disease ...	13	7
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	2	0
Influenza ...	2	0
Bronchitis ...	1	2
Pneumonia (all forms) ...	3	1
Other Digestive Diseases ...		2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis ...	2	3
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth	2	1
Other Violence ...	1	
Other Defined Diseases ...	3	4
Other Liver disorders ...	1	
Suicide ...	2	1
Diarrhœa (2 years and over) .	1	
Appendicitis ...		1
	—	—
Total ...	40	28



There were no cases of sickness or invalidity which were specially noteworthy during the year.

The death rate per 1,000 population from Pulmonary Tuberculosis, Pneumonia, Influenza, Bronchitis and Cancer was as follows :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	.17
Pneumonia	...	...	.70
Influenza	...	...	.35
Bronchitis	...	...	.53
Cancer	...	...	1.06

The figures for the year 1938 were as follows :—

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	...	...	.54
Pneumonia	...	...	.90
Influenza	...	...	.18
Bronchitis	...	...	.18
Cancer	...	...	1.6

It will be seen from the above figures that the death rate from Cancer shows a slight decrease from the previous year. The death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was lower; the death rate for Bronchitis, Influenza, and Pneumonia remain about the same.

### **General Provisions for Health Services in the Area.**

#### **General.**

There is a Cottage Hospital consisting of two wards and a private ward for accident and general diseases; the staff consisting of a matron and two nurses. Extra help is obtained when occasion arises.

The number of patients nursed in the hospital during the year was 209, 128 males and 81 females, against 106 for the previous year. The daily average number of patients was 3.8 against 2.6, and the average number of days for each patient 7.3, against 9.4 for last year. 96 cases were admitted from Richmond, the remaining 119 being from the Rural District and outside.

#### **Midwives.**

The Richmond and District Nursing Association has three fully trained Nurses, each with the C.M.B.

The area covered by the Association comprises the Borough of Richmond and the following villages :—

Gilling with Aske, Brompton-on-Swale, Hudswell, Skeeby, Easby, St. Martins, Sleegill, Hartforth, Hipswell and Scotton.

The number of visits paid by the nurses from August 1st, 1939, to July 31st, 1940, is as follows :—

Midwifery Visits	...	...	...	2302
General Visits	...	...	...	1346
Public Health Visits	...	...	...	4906
Total				8554

Number of cases attended by Midwives during the year in the Borough :—

1. As Midwives	...	...	...	46
2. As Maternity Nurses	...	...	...	29

Number of cases during the year in which medical aid was summoned by a Midwife under Section 14 (1) of the Midwifery Act, 1918 :—21.

Number of women sent by the Council during the year to other Maternity Institutions :—3.

There is no registered Maternity Home in the Borough, the one previously referred to in my report having been discontinued.

### **Clinics and Treatment Centres.**

Eleven meetings of the Ante-Natal Clinic were held during the year. 65 mothers attended the Clinic and made 133 attendances, or an average attendance of approximately 6 mothers per meeting.

Arrangements have been made by which cases of abnormal pregnancy, complicated cases or cases where the home conditions are not satisfactory can be admitted to the Maternity Ward in Greenbank Hospital, Darlington. Three cases were sent during the year.

A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre is provided by the Local Authority ; the meetings are held once a fortnight, the children are weighed at each visit and their respective weights recorded. Twenty-six meetings were held during the year.

The total number of attendances at the Centre during the year was 855, the average for the year being 33 per meeting. The figures for 1938, were 1061, giving an average of 41 per meeting.

Total number of attendances at the centre during the year :—

- |    |                                   |     |     |
|----|-----------------------------------|-----|-----|
| 1. | By children under 1 year of age   | ... | 430 |
| 2. | By children between the ages of 1 |     |     |
|    | and 5 years                       |     | 425 |

Total number of children who attended at the centre for the first time during the year :—

- |    |                                    |     |    |
|----|------------------------------------|-----|----|
| 1. | Children under 1 year of age       | ... | 74 |
| 2. | Children between the ages of 1 and |     |    |
|    | 5 years                            |     | 40 |

Total number of children under 5 years of age who attended at the centre during the year and who, at the end of the year, were :—

- |    |                     |     |     |     |    |
|----|---------------------|-----|-----|-----|----|
| 1. | Under 1 year of age | ... | ... | ... | 54 |
| 2. | Over 1 year of age  | ... | ... | ... | 90 |

Total quantity of milk supplied during the year to expectant mothers and nursing mothers and young children :—

- |    |                |     |     |     |     |     |
|----|----------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 1. | Liquid gallons | ... | ... | ... | ... | 117 |
| 2. | Dried pounds   | ... | ... | ... | ... | 140 |

The Health Visitor visits babies as soon after 14 days as possible, and thereafter at regular periods during the first year. The progress of the child is followed continually to five years of age by further visits and by attendance at the Centre.

### **School Clinics.**

Eye Clinics are held in the various schools ; any children requiring attention are examined and a report is given to the parents upon which to act. Those whose eyesight is defective are referred to the Ophthalmic Surgeon.

Two Dental Clinics were held during the year, during the months of June and July. These were under the charge of Mr. F. H. Gargett, L.D.S., N.R.C.C.

Two further Clinics were arranged for in September and October. No dentist turned up.

As no report was submitted, I am not able to give either the number of adults and children treated, or the number of extractions.



An Orthopædic Clinic is also held from time to time in the old Roman Catholic Infant School in Victoria Road. It is well attended, and full advantage is taken of the facilities afforded. The Orthopædic Surgeon and an Orthopædic Nurse are in attendance. Suitable cases are sent to Kirbymoorside Orthopædic Hospital.

The Schools are visited frequently by the School Nurses, who inspect the children and make a report to the County Council, and if necessary the parents are seen and advised to consult their own medical man.

39 cases of Scarlet Fever were treated in the Isolation Hospital during the year, 12 from the Borough, the remaining 27 being from the Rural Districts of Richmond and Leyburn, viz. :—

Richmond Rural District	...	...	...	18
Leyburn Rural District	...	...	...	9

With regard to the Borough cases, three of them were adults, the remaining twelve being children. All were mild in character, and there were no complications. No definite periodicity was noticed.

The Rural cases were admitted from Gilling 1, Skeeby 1, Scotton 1, St. Martins 1, Middleton Tyas 1, Colburn 1, Hartforth 6, Caldwell 1, Morris Grange 1, Eppleby 2, Catterick 1, and Catterick Camp 1.

Here again, as in the Borough, the cases were isolated ones, being notified from different parts of the district.

There were **no** deaths from Scarlet Fever.

**No** cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

A fully trained Nurse Matron is in charge. The Medical Officer of Health is the Medical Superintendent.

**Small Pox.**—In the event of an outbreak of Small Pox the Local Authority have made provision for an Isolation Hospital at the Grand Stand on the Old Race-course. The Rural District Council give a yearly grant for the use of this Hospital.

No cases were notified during the year.

### **Maternal Mortality.**

Ante-natal and post-natal care no doubt play a very important part in reducing the maternal mortality rate.

Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia are sent to the Isolation Hospital, Darlington. One case was notified during the year.



### **Health Visiting.**

Children up to five years of age are visited regularly by the Health Visitor, and anything requiring attention is at once reported.

To children under 1 year of age :—

First Visits 56. Total Visits 488.

To children between the ages of 1 and 5 years :—

Total Visits 1047.

Every care is required during these first five years, and therefore I would stress the importance of regular Health Visiting and regular attendance at the centre.

### **Ambulance Facilities.**

The Ambulance facilities are the same as in previous reports and are satisfactory.

### **Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.**

The Staff consists of a part time Medical Officer of Health who is also M.O. of Health to the Richmond Rural District Council. A Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor, who is a whole time officer and holds the certificate of Sanitary Inspector and is a member of the Royal Sanitary Institute. A Nurse Matron at the Isolation Hospital.

### **Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.**

#### **Water.**

The Water Supply for the Borough comes from three sources :—

1. Coalsgarth.
2. Aislabeck.
3. Feldom.

The Coalsgarth and Aislabeck Reservoirs form the high zone supply, and have a capacity of 150,000 gallons and 25,000 gallons respectively.

The Feldom Reservoir is the low zone supply, and has a capacity of 300,000 gallons.

The total capacity of the reservoirs is 475,000 gallons, which is approximately two and a half days' supply.

The supply is adequate under all conditions and for all purposes of existing layout schemes.

The following table shows the rainfall in the Borough for the past twelve years :—

1927	...	...	...	38.03 ins.
1928	...	...	...	36.34 ins.
1929	...	...	...	23.90 ins.
1930	...	...	...	40.16 ins.
1931	...	...	...	27.43 ins.
1932	...	...	...	23.47 ins.
1933	...	...	...	22.48 ins.
1934	...	...	...	27.07 ins.
1935	...	...	...	32.58 ins.
1936	...	...	...	27.22 ins.
1937	...	...	...	28.65 ins.
1938	...	...	...	33.13 ins.
1939	...	...	...	34.63 ins.

#### **Rainfall during 1939.**

January	...	4.49 ins.	July	...	4.06 ins.
February	...	1.52 ins.	August	...	5.16 ins.
March	...	3.04 ins.	September	...	.99 ins.
April	...	1.19 ins.	October	...	4.30 ins.
May	...	1.23 ins.	November	...	3.63 ins.
June	...	3.71 ins.	December	...	1.31 ins.
					<hr/>
					34.63 ins.

The rainfall for the first six months was 15.18 ins., and for the last six months 19.45 ins.

I am indebted to Mr. Robert Hornby, Headmaster of the C. of E. School, for the above rainfall details.

#### **Drainage.**

All the sewers discharge at various points of the river ; the outlets are, however, some distance apart—rather over a mile from the highest to the lowest point.

It is to be hoped the Council are keeping in their minds the Sewage Disposal Scheme for the Borough, and will not defer it any longer than absolutely necessary. In view of A.R.P. and the consequent influx of evacuees owing to the Borough being a reception area, the above scheme becomes more than ever imperative.

### Scavenging.

The Ash Rate to my mind should be dispensed with as an individual item, and the rate charged in the general rate. This would obviate the dumping of refuse in gardens, etc., and thus from a sanitary point of view would be in the interests of the inhabitants.

### Factories and Workshops Act, 1901.

The Workshops and Workplaces have been periodically inspected and found satisfactory. The special report has been forwarded to the authorities. The following is the summary of the work carried out during the year.

#### Report.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces, including Inspections made by the Sanitary Inspector :—

Premises	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories ...	12	Nil	Nil
Workshops ...	31	2	Nil
Workplaces ...	25	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—
	68	2	Nil

2.—Defects found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces. Nuisances under Public Health Acts :—

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Insp.	No. of Offences in resp. of which prosecutions were instituted
Want of Cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of Ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—
Want of Drainage of Floors	—	—	—	—
Other Nuisances ...	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation :—				
Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—
Unsuitable or defective	2	2	—	—
Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under Factories and Workshops Acts and other Offences	—	—	—	—
	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	2	Nil	Nil



## Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

### Schools.

The Public Elementary Schools were regularly visited during the year, and the sanitary conditions and water supply were regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

### Housing.

Houses built by private enterprise :—

3 houses Stanley Grove.

2 houses Gilling Road.

5 houses I'Anson Road.

Houses built by the Corporation :—

48 houses New Whitcliffe Housing Site.

There is a good deal of overcrowding in the Borough owing to evacuees and the families of soldiers.

The Borough, to my mind, should not have been made a reception area owing to the proximity of Catterick Camp.

With regard to housing, the immediate needs appear to be :—

1. Houses suitable for aged persons (Bungalow type).

These are necessitated owing to the fact that single persons have had to be moved from clearance areas into Council houses which would normally have been occupied by a family. The above houses should be as near the centre of the town as possible.

2. A further number of three-bedroom type houses will be necessary, as it is impossible to relieve overcrowding in two-bedroom type houses.

### Summary of Notices served by the Borough Surveyor and Sanitary Inspector.

Defective Spouts and Roofs	...	...	...	...	5
Houses disinfected and inspected after					
			Infectious Diseases		13
Defective Drains and W.C's.	...	...	...	...	7
Defective Ashbins	...	...	...	...	29
Bugs	...	...	...	...	2
Deposits of Manure	...	...	...	...	2
					—
Total				...	58

These were all informal notices and were complied with.



### **Eradication of Bed Bugs.**

1. Number of
 

(a) Council Houses found to be infested	...	Nil
Council Houses disinfested	...	Nil
(b) Other houses found to be infested...	...	1
Other houses disinfested	... ..	1
2. Methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs :—  
Zaldecyde was used for the above.
3. With regard to the belongings of tenants prior to removal to Council Houses no action has been necessary.
4. Disinfestation is carried out by the Local Authority.
5. Measures taken to prevent infestation and re-infestation consist of frequent inspections.

### **Inspection and Supervision of Foods.**

The greater part of the milk consumed in the Borough is supplied by farmers living in the Borough or just outside.

The milk is delivered daily by the majority of them.

The farms and dairies have been periodically inspected. All precautions are taken to ensure so far as is practicable a safe and wholesome supply.

Pasteurisation or the boiling of milk reduces the risk of tuberculosis and other infections to a minimum, and will prolong the period during which milk can be kept sweet.

I would like to impress on all milk producers a most important factor, and that is—the cleaner the milk they can produce, and the freer it is from any signs of disease, the longer will universal pasteurisation be delayed.

### **Meat.**

During the year to September, 1939 (when the Government Control of Slaughter came into operation) the slaughterhouses were periodically visited.

After September, 1939, under the scheme arranged by the Ministry of Food, all the slaughterhouses in the district were closed, and a Central Scheme put into being.

Richmond was the centre, and distribution to the various villages was made from there.

The Shops, Stalls, etc., have been inspected frequently and are satisfactory. The interior of the shops, including counters, blocks, knives, and other implements used are kept in a clean condition.

The Stalls in the Covered Market have been periodically inspected and are kept in a clean condition.

### **Other Foods.**

The Sanitary conditions of the premises where foods are prepared or exposed for sale have been regularly inspected and found satisfactory.

No cases of food poisoning have been brought to my notice during the year.

### **Prevalence and Control over Infectious Diseases.**

15 cases of Scarlet Fever were notified, 12 being removed to the Isolation Hospital ; the remaining 3 cases were treated at home, as it was found that satisfactory isolation could be effected.

The cases were mild in character and without any complications, and with the exception of three, were in children of school age.

No serious outbreak of any significance occurred during the year, which was very satisfactory in view of the increased number of children owing to the Evacuation Scheme.

No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year.

The case of Puerperal Pyrexia was sent to hospital under the M.C. & W. Scheme.

All houses where cases of infectious disease have been notified are visited, and full investigations made with a view to :—

1. Tracing the cause of infection.
2. Ascertaining if there are any contacts.

Appropriate measures are always taken to prevent the spread. The premises are inspected and notices are served for defects where found.

All infected bedding and clothing is removed from infected houses and disinfected by steam.

The houses are disinfected by formalin and SO<sup>2</sup> gas.

### Notifiable Diseases during the year 1939.

DISEASE	Total cases notified	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small Pox ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever .. ..	15	12	Nil
Diphtheria ... ..	Nil	Nil	Nil
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	1	1	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	1	1	Nil
Pneumonia ... ..	7	Nil	4
Erysipelas ... ..	3	Nil	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis...	1	1	Nil
Chicken Pox ... ..	5	Nil	Nil
Measles ... ..	1	Nil	Nil

### Tuberculosis.

#### New Cases and Mortality during 1939.

AGE PERIODS.  AGES.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory		Non Respiratory		Respiratory		Non Respiratory	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year ... ..	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
1 and under 5 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5 and under 15 years	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15 and under 25 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
25 and under 35 years	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...
35 and under 45 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
45 and under 55 years	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
55 and under 65 years	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
65 years and upwards	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Total ...	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0

The death rate from Pulmonary Tuberculosis was .17, and that from all cases of Tuberculosis .17.

**Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations,  
1925.**

No notification has been received of any Tubercular employees in connection with the Milk Trade, therefore no action was necessary.

**Public Health Act, 1936, Section 172.**

No action was taken by the Council under the above Section, where power is given for the compulsory removal to hospital of urgent cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis if proper isolation is not possible at home.

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My thanks are due to the Staff who have worked loyally with me, to the Head Teachers of the various Schools, to the School Attendance Officer, the School Nurses, and the Chairman and Members of the Sanitary Committee for their co-operation and help at all times.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN WILLIAMS, M.D.









